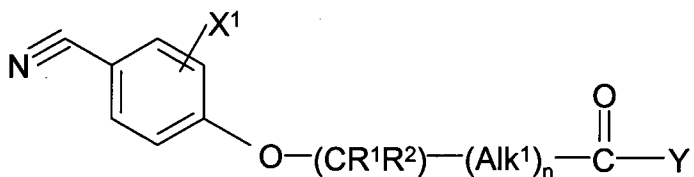


In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A compound of the formula:



in which;

- a) X^1 is represented by cyano, halogen or haloalkyl,
- b) one of R^1 or R^2 is represented by C_1 - C_6 alkyl which may be optionally substituted, and the other of R^1 or R^2 is represented by hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl which may be optionally substituted,
- c) Alk^1 is represented by a C_1 - C_2 linear alkylene group, in which up to two hydrogen atoms are optionally replaced by a substituent selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_6 alkyl optionally substituted, halogen, hydroxy, thiol, and cyano,
- d) n is represented by the integer 0 or 1,
- e) Y is represented by NX^2X^3 ,
- f) X^2 is represented by hydrogen or $(\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6)$ alkyl optionally substituted, and,
- g) X^3 is represented by $(\text{C}_6$ - $\text{C}_{10})$ aryl $(\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6)$ alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may each be optionally substituted,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~or solvate,~~ thereof.

Claim 2 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 in which one of R^1 or R^2 is hydrogen and the other of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of isobutyl, propyl, n-butyl, isopropyl, and ethyl.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): A compound according to claim 2 in which n is 0.

Claim 4 (Previously amended): A compound according to claim 3 in which X¹ is trifluoromethyl and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 4 in which X² is hydrogen.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Previously amended): A compound according to claim 1 in which X¹ is represented by halogen or haloalkyl.

Claim 10-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 in admixture with 1, or more, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

Claim 14 (Previously amended): A topical pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1 in admixture with 1, or more, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients suitable for dermal application.

Claim 15 (Previously amended): A kit comprising a compound according to claim 1 packaged for retail distribution, which advises a consumer how to utilize the compound to alleviate a condition selected from the group consisting of acne, alopecia, and oily skin.

Claim 16. (Previously added): A compound according to claim 1 in which X^1 is represented by CF_3 and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring, R^1 is isobutyl or propyl, R^2 is hydrogen, and n is 0.

Claim 17. (Previously added): A compound according to claim 1 in which X^1 is represented by CF_3 and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring, R^1 is isobutyl, R^2 is hydrogen, n is 0, and X^2 is represented by hydrogen.

Claim 18 (Previously added): A compound according to claim 1 in which X^1 is represented by CF_3 and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring, R^1 is isobutyl or propyl, R^2 is hydrogen, n is 0, X^2 is represented by hydrogen and X^3 is benzyl or phenethyl in which the phenyl ring is optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of methoxy, ethoxy, hydroxy, and methyl.

Claim 19 (Previously added): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (2-phenoxy-ethyl)-amide,
- e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid -3-methoxy-benzylamide,
- f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]amide,
- g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-methoxy-benzylamide,
- h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-ethoxy-benzylamide,
- i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide, and,

- j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-methyl-benzylamide.

Claim 20 (Previously added): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide,
- b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methoxy-benzylamide,
- c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-methoxy-benzylamide,
- d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-ethoxy-benzylamide,
- e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide,
- f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-methyl-benzylamide,
- g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2,4-dimethyl-benzylamide,
- h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide,
- i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-p-tolyl-ethyl)-amide, and,
- j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.

Claim 21 (Previously added): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-m-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
- b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-p-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
- c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-m-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
- e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-phenoxy-propyl)-amide,
- f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-phenoxy-ethyl)-amide,
- g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,

- h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzyl-isopropyl-amide,
- j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- k) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- l) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzyl-isopropyl-amide,
- m) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- n) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid 4-isopropyl-benzylamide,
- o) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3-methoxy-benzylamide, and,
- p) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide.

Claim 22 (Previously added): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3,4-dihydroxy-benzylamide,
- b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid (naphthalene-1-yl-methyl)-amide,
- c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-hexanoic acid benzylamide,
- d) N-benzyl-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-3-methyl-butyramide,
- e) (R)- 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- f) (R)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- g) (R)-2-(cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid 2-methyl-benzylamide,

- h) 2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide, and,
- i) 2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.

Claim 23 (Previously added): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- a) (S)-2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
- b) (S)-2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)ethyl]amide,
- c) (S)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide,
- d) (S)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[1-(methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- f) (R-) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (1-phenyl-ethyl)-amide,
- h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid[1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- k) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-[phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- l) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
- m) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (1-phenyl-ethyl)-amide, and,
- n) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.